

REMARKS

The Decision on Appeal sustained the rejection of claims 8-25 under §112, first paragraph, and reversed the rejection of claims 8-25 under §103.

The specification has been amended to remove the references to Figure 7. As noted in the Official Action of March 4, 2002, the addition of Figure 7 was not approved.

Claim 20 has been amended to overcome the rejection under §112, first paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 20-24 were rejected as unpatentable over YASAKU (Japanese Patent 63-5551) in view of FILIP 4,025,748. Claims 9-19 and 25 were rejected as unpatentable in view of further references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

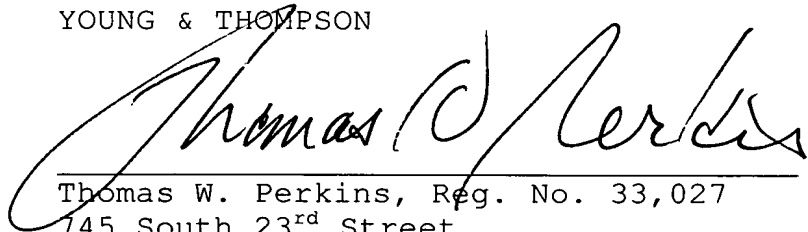
As noted above, the Board reversed the rejection of these claims. The Board noted at page 19, "We do not find any teaching in either Yasaku or Flip (sic, Filip) that the fingerprint is only detected when the contact surface is in a detent position." This reversal is not based on the limitation removed by the present amendment and thus the amended claims still avoid the rejection under §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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